

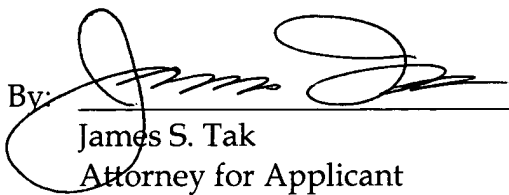
REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on October 11, 2005 has been carefully considered and the Examiner's remarks are appreciated. The Examiner allowed claims 1-9, 11, and 13-21, but rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite with regard to "said means for providing a reactant gas" in line 2 as having insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 23 accordingly, with support for the amendments found in the Specification, Claims, and Drawings. Having amended the claims to overcome Examiner's rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request allowance of the same.

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, he is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned at (925) 422-7274.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 11, 2005

By: 
James S. Tak
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,367

Lawrence Livermore National Lab
7000 East Avenue, L-703
Livermore, CA 94550
TEL: (925) 422-7274
FAX: (925) 423-2231